

REMARKS

The Office Action of February 14, 2006 has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 and 28-35 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 5, 8, 11-13, 15, and 18-27 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 16, and 17 are amended herein without prejudice or disclaimer. All of the pending claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 16, and 17 are presented below. All pending claims stand rejected. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Support for amended claim 2 can be found throughout the specification, including in at least canceled claims 5, 8, 18 and previously submitted claim 2. The amendments to claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 16, and 17 were made to maintain antecedent basis.

Rejection under 35 USC §112, 2nd

Claims 2-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner contends that the claims do not include enough information to clearly and accurately describe the invention and how it is to be practiced. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

The preamble for claim 2 is “a process for preparing at least one sample for a method of detecting and quantifying a nucleic acid of interest in the at least one sample”. Accordingly, Applicants have modified the preamble as requested by the Examiner.

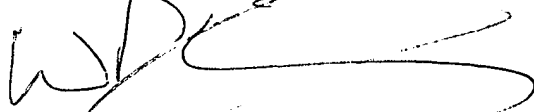
Rejection under 35 USC 112, 1st

Claims 2-17 and 19-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner alleges that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in light of the cancellation of the term “solid carrier” from the claims and the insertion of the term “filter paper”. Filter paper is described throughout the specification, including in at least paragraphs [0009] and [0019].

CONCLUSION

If questions remain after consideration of the foregoing, the Office is kindly requested to contact applicants' attorney at the address or telephone number given herein.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. P. Ramey, III', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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